



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014

No. 51

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 12 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, You have withheld nothing we need. Today, continue to meet the needs of our lawmakers. Give them so much more than they expect or merit that they will sing praises for Your goodness. In these days of challenges and opportunities, empower them with faith, courage, and goodwill to make the world a better place. Lord, use them as Your servants to bring healing to our Nation and world. Today, we also pray for the ill, the bereaved, the infirm, the discouraged, the lonely and the homeless.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 31, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, we will proceed to H.R. 4302, Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, with the time until 5 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 5 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of John Owens to be U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit, posteloture.

At 5:30 p.m. there could be up to four rollcall votes: First, on confirmation of the Owens nomination; then, if a Budget Act point of order is raised on the SGR bill, there will be a vote on the motion to waive the point of order; then passage of the SGR bill; and finally, on the motion to proceed to H.R.

3979, the legislative vehicle for the unemployment insurance bill.

### HEALTH CARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish a happy baseball opening day to everyone. Actually, it started last night, not today, but it sounds better to do it during the daytime.

Although it is opening day for Major League Baseball, it also happens to be the last day for Americans to sign up for ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act.

To date there are over 10 million newly-insured Americans benefiting from the health care law now in effect, and there are millions more who have changed their insurance because of this legislation. So it is clear Americans are signing up for this quality health care in record numbers—and that is an understatement.

I also am very happy we have been able to come to an agreement on the Medicare physician payment system. It is a 12-month fix. We need to take action on this to ensure that Medicare patients will be able to see their doctors. But the fact remains this legislation is not perfect. It is not ideal. I wish we could have followed the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator WYDEN, who came in kind of late. Most of the work was done by Ambassador Baucus before he came in. But he worked really hard, and he wants to pay for it in a way I think is appropriate—to use the unspent money we have from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, called OCO, the Overseas Contingency Operations fund. But at this

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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